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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/671,301 Confirmation No.: 8390
Applicant : KITAYAMA et al.
Filed: : September 28, 2000
TC/A.U. : 1774
Examiner : Jill M. Gray

Docket No. : 7372/70931
Customer No. : 22242

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
2011 South Clark Place
Customer Window, Mail Stop **Non-Fee Amendment**
Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03
Arlington, VA 22202

April 22, 2004

AMENDMENT

Sir:

Please enter this Amendment in response to the Office Action of October 31, 2003, together with the concurrently filed Petition for Extension of Time.

(1) Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

(2) Remarks/arguments begin on page 4 of this paper.